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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, for the beauty of the Earth and the glories of the skies, we praise You. For Your love that extends to us undeserved mercies, we lift our hearts in grateful thanksgiving.

In this challenging season of our national life, give our lawmakers the wisdom to look to You. May they remember that You are the author and finisher of our Nation's destiny, guiding us with Your prevailing providence. Lord, inspire our Senators to remove obstacles that hinder them from accomplishing Your purposes. May they seek only to please You.

God of grace and glory, thank You for continuing to be our refuge and strength.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The Democratic leader is recognized.

### BENGHAZI SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, former First Lady, U.S. Senator of the State of New York, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will testify before the so-called Benghazi Select Committee

tomorrow. In recent weeks, it has become absolutely clear that this committee is nothing more than a political hit job on Hillary Clinton.

I remember a program, "Queen for a Day." I guess this is "Speaker for the Day." Republican Majority Leader of the House of Representatives MCCARTHY—here is what he said on a TV show, radio show, or whatever it was:

Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi special committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping.

Well, that is one reason he was Speaker for the day. There were other reasons, of course. But he told the truth. He told the truth. Congressman MCCARTHY isn't the only Republican to speak the truth about this so-called committee. Last week Republican Congressman RICHARD HANNA of New York said:

Sometimes the biggest sin you can commit in D.C. is to tell the truth. This may not be politically correct, but I think that there was a big part of this investigation that was designed to go after people and an individual, Hillary Clinton. After what Kevin McCarthy said, it's difficult to accept at least a part of it was not true. I think that's the way Washington works. But you'd like to expect more from a committee that's spent millions of dollars and tons of time.

That is an understatement—about \$5 million just for this one select committee. There have been other hearings that have cost huge amounts of taxpayer dollars. They are going again tomorrow, and they said be ready for 8 hours—8 hours of interrogation. And that is what it is, an interrogation.

These two quotes are from two House Republicans. HANNA from New York is not a Democrat, he is a Republican.

The message is clear: The Benghazi Committee is a political calculation meant to influence Presidential elections. And there is more. Now we have found out that one of the Republican staffers on the committee claims that he—the staffer—was unfairly fired be-

cause he refused to unfairly target Secretary Clinton. But what else could be expected from a committee whose sole purpose is to drag a Presidential hopeful through the mud?

It is no secret that for the last 2 years, numerous Republican-directed organizations with huge amounts of money have been targeting Hillary Clinton—for more than 2 years—because they knew she would likely run for President and they wanted to soften her up, just as MCCARTHY said.

Look at the committee's record. In 17 months, committee Republicans have held a whopping three hearings—in 17 months. Tomorrow's hearing will be the first public hearing since January. It is October. October is winding down. Instead, Republican Chairman TREY GOWDY and his committee have focused millions of dollars and thousands of staff hours on Hillary Clinton—and Hillary Clinton only. The committee has interviewed or deposed eight Clinton campaign staffers. Yet Chairman GOWDY has held only one hearing with an expert from the intelligence community and not a single hearing with anyone from the Department of Defense, which is clearly a key entity responding to attacks on our diplomatic post. And what have they learned in all that time? Nothing. A recent report by the Democrats on the Benghazi Select Committee confirms that none of the witnesses they interviewed supported any of the wild conspiracy theories regarding those attacks.

Contrast the Benghazi Committee with the work of the legally required investigation of these attacks, the Accountability Review Board. This independent review was overseen by respected leaders, Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who is one of the great diplomats of our time, and ADM Michael Mullen. They completed their work in less than 3 months, not 17 months. The review board immediately put out a hard-hitting report with a series of recommendations to make sure an attack

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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